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Register-Republic

TODAY'S CHUCKLE

A girdle is a device which prevents figures from being facts.

Metro Edition

15 CENTS

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Visitor tells of 'Night in the Dark'

By TOM WICKER

ATTICA, N.Y. — Broken glass underfoot, piled barricaded tables, a faint lingering whiff of tear gas, and in the echoing darkness the still figures of men with heads swathed in towels to resemble Arab headdresses: "Right on, brother!" someone murmurs.

We pass through a door and stumble two-by-two down concrete steps past a burnt-out guard post to a shadowy exercise yard. This is No Man's Land, "controlled" by convicts in revolt but too exposed to guards' rifles and binoculars and

too far from the prisoners' hostages to be safe territory.

Fires flicker from oil drums atop low, flat rooftops surrounding the exercise yard, and here and there flashlight beams pick out alert faces, many of them framed in football helmets painted white or orange.

Rapidly, convict "security" takes over and with much counting of heads and almost exaggerated courtesy hurries the long line of invited "visitors" — more than 20 of them — past two steel doors and into the midst of the prison rebellion at Attica Correctional Facility, one of the biggest such uprisings on record.

Curving in a long line from the entrance toward the dark of D-Block are the inmates — arms locked, shoulder to shoulder, each man facing the opposite direction from the two to whom he is linked. Beyond this solid human barrier are the faceless hundreds of others — and somewhere in the darkness, huddled on mattresses within a tight ring of wooden benches, the 30-odd corrections officers being held hostage.

'Nobody gonna be hurt' is not reassuring.

'We are the only civilized men here.'

This is another world — terrifying to the outsider, yet imposing in its strangeness — behind these massive walls, in this murmurous darkness, within the temporary but real power of desperate men. "Nobody gonna be hurt," the men are saying soothingly, but it is not reassuring; it only reminds that in this dark world, the powerless have taken power.

A few feet from the D-Block building, a long line of tables has been set up. On the wall side, in the light from reading lamps taped to the wall, and that from a few regular outdoor lamps higher up, what appears to be a leadership committee is waiting. Its members are warily cordial, shaking hands firmly, welcoming the visitors as

"brothers," but watching them with hard, suspicious eyes.

Brother Herb, a veteran of revolt in the infamous Tombs, is holding the single small microphone in the glare of a floodlamp; like most of the inmates, he is wearing a prison blanket cut like a pancho. Bull-shouldered and hoarse, with the remarkable eloquence that characterizes most of the inmate speakers, Herb has told the visitors in an earlier, daylight visit: "I am Attica."

Now, laying down the prisoners' demands to loud cheering and shouts of "Right on!" Herb is skillfully heightening his brothers' morale; what the visitors are hearing, he says, is "But the sound before the fury of those

who are oppressed; when you are the anvil you bend but when you are the hammer you strike."

And Brother Richard, his brown impassive face glistening in the strange light, tells his listeners that it is the guards and the troopers outside who have the bullets and the machine guns, and it is the inmates who are safeguarding the lives of the hostages — "We are the only civilized men here."

But Brother Flip — in fact, he confides to a visitor, his name is Charles Horatio Crowley — is the most eloquent, and the most realistic. "We no longer wish to be treated as statistics, as numbers. We want to be treated as human beings, we WILL be treated as human beings!"

But Flip knows better, in his prison-wise heart. "If we can live as people," he concludes, in a silence so deep his voice rings back from the walls, "we will at last try to die like men."

Suddenly, from the lighted windows of D-Block in the distance, shouts, screams, a strange banging and clashing of metal against metal.

"Our brothers!" someone shouts. "They beatin' up our brothers!"

Voices take up the cry, running feet pound along the top of the low surrounding corridor buildings. The lights go out. On top of the table between the committee and the visitors, men appear as swiftly and silently as cats, and stand with feet braced apart, tense, staring beyond the human chain of "security." One man on the table is holding a tear-gas launcher, with a canister in place.

"Just step around the table, brother," a voice murmurs. "Just step around there now. Nobody gonna get hurt."

With the table, too, between the visitors and the unseen yelling masses of men in the yard, long tens' minutes pass. Gradually the din from C-Block fades, and beyond the table and the security chain, an eerie quiet returns to the yard. The lights come on, and the visitors scramble back to their side of the table.

"They not coming in," says Brother Flip. "Not yet awhile."

Death toll hits 40 in prison uprising

Our Wire Services

ATTICA, N. Y. — The Monroe County medical examiner said today that all nine hostages killed at Attica State Prison during the four-day uprising died of gunshot wounds.

Dr. John F. Edlund said, "There were no cut throats or any kind of mutilation."

The bodies of two more prisoners were found today, unofficial sources said, bringing the total dead to 40.

There was no immediate explanation of how the gunshots were fired, from where or by whom.

Prison officials had said pre-

viously that some of the hostages had their necks slashed by the convicts.

Earlier today, two more convicts' bodies were found, boosting the toll to 40 in the bloodiest prison revolt in modern U.S. times.

The toll was expected to rise higher.

SIX STILL MISSING
Prison officials said six missing convicts may be dead in the maze of tunnels beneath the 54 acre facility. Some 100 prisoners were wounded, many seriously.

when state troopers, national guardsmen and sheriffs' deputies stormed the prison Monday.

President Nixon told Republican congressional leaders in Washington today the loss of life would have been even greater if New York officials had not

moved Monday to end the five day uprising.

Senate GOP leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania said the President initiated the discussion of Attica at a two-hour conference at the White House.

Three black House members said in Washington the revolt stemmed from dehumanizing conditions which they said existed in prisons throughout the country.

Reps. Shirley Chisholm and Charles B. Rangel, both New York Democrats, and Ronald W. Dellums, D-Calif., said in a joint statement that the need for prison reform "has been dramatically brought to our attention."

AGENCIES WARNED

The FBI apparently has sent warnings to a number of prisons and law enforcement agencies around the country to be on the lookout for prison riots. Acting on an FBI warning, sheriffs' deputies conducted a cell-by-cell search Monday of the Wayne County jail in Detroit.

The Attica dead included 10 hostages, one of whom died Saturday after he was thrown out of a window, and 30 prisoners.

State officials believe the riot was planned weeks in advance by black militants and Puerto Ricans. About 55 per cent of the prison's 2,200 inmates are black. There are no black guards among the prison's 380-man security forces, and only one Puerto Rican.

When police began firing, bullets ripped into some prisoners even as the knives they wielded flashed up toward their captives' throats.

"The knife was pressed against my neck," said Capt. Frank Wald. "And he said 'When the first shot is fired I'm going to cut your throat.' But I was lucky. Someone picked off the man apparently just as he was about to do it."

Corrections officials believe the takeover was planned by black militants, who made up much of the leadership of the rebellious inmates. The prison has a total of 2,200 inmates, about 55 per cent black. They estimated about 85 per cent of the rebels were black.

"The tragedy was brought on by the highly organized, revolutionary tactics of militants who rejected all efforts at a peaceful settlement," said Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller.

THROAT-CUTTING SEEN

The attack started when a sharpshooter looking through the telescopic sight of his high-powered, 270 magnum rifle saw a convict slash the throat of a hostage, officials said. A National Guard helicopter hovered over one corner of the courtyard to direct the prisoners while two other choppers dumped tear gas into the midst of the convicts.

Swank quits as Illinois aid director

By JOE BAKER

SPRINGFIELD (UPI) — Illinois Director of Public Aid Harold Swank has submitted his resignation to Gov. Richard B. Ogilvie's office, it was learned today.

A spokesman for Swank, who has been director since the Public Aid Department was formed in 1963, confirmed the resignation. However, the spokesman said it would be "inappropriate" to discuss reasons for the resignation until Swank and Ogilvie discuss the matter.

Ogilvie is in San Juan, Puerto Rico, for the National Governors' Conference.

Speculation was that Swank may have resigned because of Ogilvie's decision to cancel a contract with a private firm hired by the Public Aid Department to test the employability of Chicago welfare recipients.

A Rockford criminologist and a University of Wisconsin crime expert today expressed conflicting viewpoints on the cause of the rioting at Attica State Prison in New York state.

Mrs. Dorothy Delman, criminology instructor, was not certain the violence could have been avoided but believed it might have been delayed. She emphasized she had no first-hand knowledge of the facts in the situation.

"First of all, we have to take into consideration this was a maximum security prison. These were very desperate persons. They had nothing to lose. I feel what happened could have been postponed," she said.

However, she conceded "eventually it is very possible officials might have to do what they did."

She faulted Gov. Nelson Rockefeller for not acting sooner in the matter. "I would feel the governor had the responsibility to intervene whether or not he could do anything," Mrs. Delman said.

She also pointed out actions at the prison were "violent and be-

'These were very desperate persons. They had nothing to lose.'

Dorothy Delman
Criminology instructor

yond the law. Whatever crimes were committed have to be paid for, otherwise our society would come apart. Undoubtedly conditions there are heinous but we just don't have a better way of segregating people who commit these kinds of offenses."

Professor Delman believes Attica officials were more than generous in listening to and considering the prisoners' demands.

Marshall Ciarnd, noted criminologist at the University of Wisconsin held a somewhat different perspective on the incident.

"My own feeling was one of horror. I was shocked to find not a single guard there is other than white," Ciarnd said today.

"These men have gone through a long process. I blame society for most of it. I don't regard it as a political thing as

Hamlet is hope for retarded

By DAVID H. BEETLE

ALBANY, N.Y. — Walworth, Wayne County hamlet 20 miles east of Rochester, looks about like any other Western New York community that the main highways have passed by.

An unincorporated hamlet in a township that itself has fewer than 4,000 people, it nevertheless looms large in the eyes of the New York State Mental Hygiene Department.

Perhaps more than any other community of its size in the country, its residents have opened their homes — and their hearts — to the mentally retarded.

118 PLACED

The result is that today 110 retarded persons — adults who



New hope for retarded

might otherwise be living institutionally structured lives at the Newark State School — enjoy family-type living.

It's a two-way street. The Walworth people are turning an extra room and place at the table into extra income.

Third in series

Why Walworth?

"We just happen to have a social worker at Newark that has been doing a terrific job," says Walter S. Schofield, a chief program analyst in the State's Division for the Retarded.

The social worker — actually supervising social worker — is John Perry and he thinks that he found a lot to build on. In any event, the 110 figure represents 60 new placements within 18 months.

"What pleases me most," says Perry, "is that we are getting to HAMLET-A 4, Col. 1

Good reading inside



RACK TO SCHOOL — Summer vacation ended Monday for Keith Country Day School and Rock Valley College students. For a look at their return to classes, see page A3.

BLACK IS BACK — Today's family pages describe the long and short of it, ranging from hot pants to elegant evening dresses, all proving that, though helmets may have their ups and downs, you can't wrong the black. Page A18.

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